

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS GSA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, OEXC, UNDP, KU

SUBJECT: TRAINING IN FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
OF MATERIAL CATALOGING

1. CANADIAN UNDP CATALOGING EXPERT, RICHARD MALTBY, HAS ASKED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE ON SOME MATTERS RELATED TO GOK INTEREST IN FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF MATERIAL CATALOGING. MALTBY HAS BEEN IN KUWAIT ABOUT THREE YEARS, AND HE BELIEVES GOK NOW PREPARED TO ADOPT SYSTEM INITIALLY DEVELOPED BY PENTAGON. DEPARTMENT MAY RECALL THAT MOHAMAD MAWAFI, SENIOR GOK MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN PROGRAM, VISITED WASHINGTON AUGUST 19-23, 1974. FYI HIS VISIT WAS GIVEN PROJECT TITLE FSB OFFICIAL VISIT FROM KUWAIT FS-FA-SS. END FYI. MAWAFI MET WITH JOSEPH RUAINI, DIRECTOR LOGISTICS DATA, MANAGEMENT DIVISION, GSA, BUILDING 4, CRYSTAL MALL, WASHINGTON, DC 20406, AND WITH ROBERT HUSHBACK.

2. BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE DURING VISIT, MAWAFI AND MALTBY UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE COURSES FOR AMERICANS IN FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION AND FEDERAL CATALOG MATTERS THAT POSSIBLY WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO KUWAITIS. MALTBY WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN WHATEVER INFORMATION WASHINGTON COULD PROVIDE ON SUCH COURSES EITHER GIVEN BY USG AGENCIES OR IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS OR UNIVERSITIES.

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3. MALTBY WILL BE GOING ON HOME LEAVE TO CANADA VIA NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. HE WILL LEAVE KUWAIT AUGUST 21 AND COULD BE IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 25-27. HE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE GSA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE COULD DISCUSS TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS GOK'S PLANS AND DESIRES IN CLASSIFICATION/CATALOGUE AREA. CONTACTS IN NEW YORK ARE MISS ALBURQUERQUE OR MR CHAO AT OFFICE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, UN HEADQUARTERS.

4. MALTBY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT UNTECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECRUITING SERVICE (TARS) WILL BE RECRUITING EXPERT FOR KUWAIT. MALTBY BELIEVES AMERICAN FAMILIAR WITH SYSTEM WOULD FULFILL JOB REQUIREMENT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. HE TOLD EMBOFF TERMS OF REFERENCE CALL FOR EXPERIENCE THAT ONLY AMERICAN, MOST PROBABLY FORMER MILITARY, COULD HAVE.

5. COMMENT: MALTBY BELIEVES KUWAITI ADOPTION OF FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION AND FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEMS ARE IMPORTANT, IF LITTLE UNDERSTOOD STEP IN MANAGEMENT OF GOK AS COUNTRY AND GOVERNMENT DEVELOP, ENLARGE AND BECOME MORE COMPLEX. HE HAS NOTED THAT SEVERAL NEIGHBORING STATES HAVE OR ARE LIKELY TO ADOPT US SYSTEM. IN ITS OWN WAY, GOK DECISION TO ADOPT FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IS ANOTHER NOT UNIMPORTANT STEP BY GOK, AFTER CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL DEBATE, TO OPT FOR AMERICAN WAY OF DOING SOMETHING. IT IS, THEREFORE, ANOTHER CONSCIOUS DECISION TO LINK-UP WITH US AND THEREFORE IS OF SOME POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE, THAT MAY NOT BE APPARENT TO SPECIALISTS IN WASHINGTON DEALING WITH HIGHLY TECHNICAL MATTER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED PROVIDE INFORMATION ON COURSES AVAILABLE TO KUWAITIS ON FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND FEDERAL CATALOG. DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTED TO ADVISE ASAP RE WHETHER MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED FOR MALTBY DURING AUGUST 25-27 PERIOD WITH APPROPRIATE GSA OFFICIALS AND OTHERS. STOLTZFUS

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